

SEDAN'S RE-EDUCATIVE TREATMENT OF SUPPRESSION AMBLYOPIA. By T. Keith Lyle, C.B.E., M.D., M.Ch., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Cynthia Douthwaite, D.B.E., and Jill Wilkinson, D.B.O. (Pp. xii + 135. 25s.) London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

This interesting and unique book is an abridged English version of Jean Sedan's *Post Cure de L'Amblyopie Rééduqué*.

No more competent team could have undertaken this task than Keith Lyle and the othoptists at the High Holborn Branch of Moorfields Eye Hospital.

The causes of amblyopia are briefly discussed and the objects and methods of treatment are outlined. The book is mainly composed of exercises, or games, devised to help the amblyope, and it is as suitable for use in the home as in the clinic. These include proof reading where deliberate errors have been made in extracts from 'Alice in Wonderland,' and various arrangements of numbers, designs, drawings, tracings, and photographs, all of which require attention to details and improve hand-eye co-ordination. There are also a series of simple exercises for amblyopes with eccentric fixation.

The theoretical considerations of the subject are brief, lucid, and up to date.

Unocular amblyopia in strabismus has long been recognised and treated, but there is still not universal agreement as to which is cause and effect.

Jean Sedan emphasises that in amblyopia there is not only a defect of visual acuity, but also a defect of visual discrimination. This can be shown by measuring the difference between the visual acuity obtained with individual test types and that obtained with a line of letters on the test chart. Similarly, the acuity may vary when the test types are presented in different positions and planes.

The inhibition of amblyopia is treated by occlusion of the fixing eye and progressive exercises such as reading and tracing, using the amblyopic eye. The importance of continuing these measures to maintain the improvement is stressed.

Eccentric fixation, or extra muscular fixation, is a disturbance of spatial localisation which occurs in some cases of strabismus and does not respond to occlusion of the non-squinting eye. Such occlusion is more likely to reinforce the eccentric fixation. Occlusion of the amblyopic eye, however, breaks down the function of the false macula, and with the aid of ingenious instruments such as the euthyscope and the co-ordinator, which stimulate the true macula, normal macular fixation may be obtained.

The restoration of full or useful vision in an amblyopic eye fully rewards the time and patience expended, and this book should prove most useful in sustaining the efforts of all concerned with the treatment of squint and amblyopia.

V. A. F. M.

DENTISTRY FOR THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD. By G. N. Davies, D.D.S.(N.Z.), and Richard M. King, B.D.S.(N.Z.), M.S.(Univ. Mich.). (Pp. vii + 268; figs. 51. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

This book, which deals with the dental problems of the very young, is very welcome, as this important age group has, to date, been given but scant attention in the textbooks.

It contains sound practical advice on the proper approach and management of small children in the dental surgery. Diet and nutrition are given just prominence and measures for the control and prevention of dental caries are set out clearly in a logical sequence. Also included here is a very worthwhile critical analysis of the values of the so-called therapeutic dentifrices.

In some other sections their touch is perhaps not quite so sure. For instance, in their chapter dealing with the anomalies affecting the deciduous dentition they describe the anomalies but fail to comment upon the possible significance of these in so far as the permanent successors are concerned. Likewise, when discussing traumatic injuries, a note on the possible effects on the permanent teeth would have been valuable. Nevertheless, despite the above omissions, the practitioner interested in the treatment of children, and the student, should find much additional material of value in this readable volume which one enjoyed very much.

D. J. S.